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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
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MICHAEL P. CANTARA
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
JULY 10, 2006
9:00 AM
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members: Steve Leach (chair), Wayne Werts (chair-elect), Bob Ashby, Alan Azzara, Oden Cassidy, Joe Conley, Peter DiPietrantonio, Richard Doughty, Paul Knowlton, Jim McKenney, Bill Montejo, Carol Pillsbury, Roy Woods, Steve Diaz (ex-officio),

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Ben Woodard, Drexell White, Dave Kingdon

Attorney General's Office: Laura Yustak Smith

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Rick Petrie, Steve Corbin, Bill Zito

Guests: Steve Bunker, Dan Batsie, David Cluff, Ann LeFlamme, John DuRoss

1. Bill Montejo, RN, EMT-P, was introduced and welcomed to the Board as the Emergency Nurse Representative. Other guests were also introduced and welcomed to the meeting.
2. Approval of June 6 & 7, 2006, meeting minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the June 6 & 7, 2006, meeting as distributed. (McKenney; seconded by Werts) Unanimous.

3. New Business
 - a. Investigation Committee Action Items:

Motion: To enter executive session pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. §92.3 and 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F) for the purpose of reviewing pending investigation #06-02 and 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) for receiving legal advice on the aforementioned investigation. (Pillsbury; second by Doughty). Unanimous

Entered into Executive Session at 10:30 (Karen Boston, Esq., in attendance)

MOTION: To exit Executive Session (Doughty; second by Werts). Unanimous

Exited Executive Session at 11:00

Steve Leach reported that in Executive Session, the Board discussed case # 06-02 and received legal advise from counsel.

MOTION: To grant a continuance in Case #06/02 and refer the matter to the Investigations Committee for its July 27 meeting and the August 2 Board meeting. (Pillsbury; second by Doughty). Unanimous.

b. Committee Reports

- i. Ops Team – The Operations Team has not met since the June meeting, but continues to have weekly conference calls to share information and discuss items of interest.
- ii. Education Committee – Dan Batsie reported on the joint meeting that was held with the Exam Committee on June 14 to discuss the Integrated Practical Exam (IPE) process. The consensus was that while there have been concerns and confusion about the IPE, this is a process that we are better off to refine than try and replace at this time. The primary concern was the lack of critical skills – and a model was presented that would apply these in exams taking place after September 1. The Committees also recommend that legislation be pursued to remove the current language regarding state exams to allow other options, including an accreditation model for education/exam to be considered.

MOTION: To support the recommendations from the Education & Exam Committees regarding changes in the IPE process effective 8/15/06. (Pillsbury; second by Cassidy). Unanimous.

- iii. Exam Committee – covered in above
- iv. Quality Improvement Committee – the Committee finalized the Airway QI Form, which has been mailed to all EMS services and uploaded to the MEMS web site. Statewide use of this form will commence on September 1. Work continues on the 12 lead EKG project in partnership with Maine Quality Forum. Target date for completion is January 2007.

c. Legislative Update – nothing to report

d. Other

- i. York County Chiefs – Chief Duffy reported that members of the York County Fire & Rescue Chiefs had concerns about the process being taken to work on the EMSSTAR recommendations. The concern is that discussions taking place at the Board level are the same as those which had already occurred within the Work Study groups. They supported the plan adopted by the Board at its June meetings to use a sub-committee that would continue the work and report back to the full Board. The Chiefs are also concerned about the impact of the transition to Computer Based Testing will have on their area.
- ii. Investigation Process - Laura Yustak Smith made a presentation to the Board about the EMS Law, EMS Rules, and the investigative process. This is part of a 4 part series that continue for the next several months.

4. Staff Reports

a. MEMS Report

- i. Education Coordinator Position – interviews will be conducted on June 16th.
- ii. MEMSRR Update – Ben reported that new services signing on to MEMSRR include: Wilton, Bucksport, and Bath Fire. Two MEMSRR training programs were conducted the end of June (Bangor and So. Portland). Ben also alerted the Board that there has been some confusion in the hardware that best supports the Field Bridge application. Although the software itself will run on other platforms, the Tablet PC operating system is the only one that is capable of utilizing the full features of the Field Bridge.
- iii. EMD Update – Dave reminded Board members about the hearings that will be held July 17-21. He also reinforced that in order to comply with the EMS Law, we must have a minimum of two Board members at each hearing.
- iv. Inspection Update – Dawn's inspection schedule has been reduced due to the extended vacancy of a Training Coordinator. She has also noticed a trend with some services failing to comply with the medication storage and drug box logs. Services have been given instructions on how to comply with these requirements and all have done so in a timely manner.
- v. Other
 1. EMSC – Jay updated the Board on the change in the grant guidance on the Emergency Medical Services for Children grant. In the past, the guidance was more open and made it possible to have a great deal of flexibility in what work was done. MEMS used grant funds to help supplement cuts to regional contracts provided the regions developed a plan for EMSC. However, this year, the guidance has changed and is geared toward collecting data, strengthening pediatric medical control and equipment, and establishing a pediatric infrastructure at the state level. As work progresses in this direction, there is still the possibility for regional offices to receive some funding to help with the data collection and state committee representation – and funds that could be made on a more competitive basis in response to a Request for Proposal. This change will require approval from the feds, but that is anticipated in the immediate future. Consensus of the Board was that this direction is appropriate.

b. Medical Director Report

- i. MDPB – Dr. Diaz reported that at their June meeting, the MDPB focused on drafting their annual work plan. Topics for the coming year include:
 - Cardiac Care Committee
 - PIFT (including the discussion on adding blood products)
 - Protocol revisions. Will wait to incorporate new AHA guidelines until next protocol revision.
 - Developing evidence-based articles for EMS

- Discuss position regarding the recommendations contained in the Institute of Medicine's report.
- Role in pandemic flu planning.

At the July meeting, the MDPB will be having a presentation on an online medical control program that is being developed by Dr. Jonathan Busco (EMMC) and Matt Sholl (MMC).

5. Old Business

- a. EMS Study work group – Wayne reported on the work group that met to discuss the core functions of an EMS system with regard to what should be done centrally and what should be done regionally. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus that it is necessary to identify and collect data on the cost of delivering EMS services and support. It was suggested that perhaps the State Planning Office can assist the work group. Jay will contact SPO and once a resource has been identified, convene a meeting of the work group as soon as possible. Roy Woods asked to be added to the work group.

MOTION: To support the findings of the EMS Study sub committee and to request they proceed to identify and collect data elements, to develop straw man models for how the EMS system may look, and to report back in September if possible. (Doughty; second by Cassidy) Unanimous.

- b. Board Policies – nothing new at this time
- c. Conflicts of Interest Policy – nothing new at this time

6. Other

- a. Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 2, 2006. 9:00 – 3:00. Jay reported that he will be attending a meeting with the National Registry in Atlanta July 31 & August 1; arriving back early afternoon on August 2.

7. Adjourned at 2:45 PM